

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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March 27, 2014

The Honorable John P. Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street NW, Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren,

Thank you for testifying before the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology yesterday. As discussed, there are differences in budget priorities where we will simply have to agree to disagree. While we have differences of opinion, there is no reason to have differences in facts. I am concerned that you created some confusion in your explanation for why Chief Technology Officer Todd Park refuses to testify before the Committee about his role in Healthcare.gov.

Yesterday, you claimed that Mr. Park "doesn't report to me...I can't compel him to come and testify." The statement that he doesn't report to you appears to contradict your November 26 letter to me that stated, "Mr. Park is part of OSTP's leadership". On the OSTP website, Mr. Park is listed as a member of your leadership team and that he is in charge of a 14-staff division within your Office. Further, you wrote a blog post on March 9, 2012, to welcome Mr. Park to OSTP and explained his duties. If Mr. Park doesn't report to you, to whom does he report?

Likewise, you repeated the statement that Mr. Park "has not been primarily associated with the security of the [Healthcare.gov] site." Mr. Park was the Chief Technology Officer at the Department of Health and Human Services from August 2009 until March 2012, where he led development of Healthcare.gov prototype before joining OSTP. After that, Mr. Park was a White House Co-Chairman of the Affordable Care Act Information Technology Exchanges Steering Committee that even had an interagency Healthcare.gov security subcommittee directly reporting to him. The only way the Science, Space, and Technology Committee learned about Mr. Park's role was through media reports, and never directly from your office.

Would you correct or clarify your testimony on this important subject? Further, I hope that you will change your position about not allowing Mr. Park to testify.

Sincerely,



Lamar Smith
Chairman